



BE PERFECT

July 11, 2021 // Ryan Suzuki, Associate Pastor

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As we continue to study the Greatest Sermon Of All Time, taught by **JESUS**, the Greatest Teacher Of All Time, we see a pattern where Jesus says, ***“You have heard it said... but I tell you...”*** This week we look at Matthew 5:38-48 where Jesus addresses the common law ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”***

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. Discuss a time when you were wrong and you “turned the other cheek.” What happened?

BIG IDEA: Be Perfect

READ Matthew 5:38-39: The law was given to judges and said in effect, “Make the punishment fit the crime.” Why do you think Jesus is telling them to respond in mercy instead of vengeance?

READ Matthew 5:40-42: When we are wronged, often our first reaction is to get even. What does Jesus say we should do? Why?

READ Matthew 5:43-44: What does Jesus say we should do for those who hurt us?

Pray for your enemies.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

2. What are some of the challenges in praying for those who persecute you?

READ Matthew 5:45-48: In this life we cannot be flawless, but we can aspire to be as much like Christ as possible. What do these passages tell us about the world’s sinful values versus God's perfect values?

Forgive those who don't deserve it.

READ Luke 23:33-34: What example of forgiveness did Jesus show us on the cross?

READ Luke 6:20-36: When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, He is not talking about having affection for our enemies. He is talking about an act of our will. It means acting in their best interests. How many "acts of our will" do you see in these passages?

Be Perfect...in Christ.

We cannot do this on our own. **READ 2 Corinthians 5:17:** How are we made perfect?

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

3. What act of love is God calling you to do for someone who is undeserving or who is not like you?

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Matthew 5:43-44